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CIA's primary job is collecting information

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It is highly unlikely that the United States could be surprised with a nuclear attack simply with the push of a button as depicted in the film "The Day After," a senior CIA intelligence analyst said last night.

Because the Soviet Union is a closed society where foreign policy is not a matter of public record, the CIA developed a "surrogate" system of estimating that nation's future actions, said Arthur C. Hulnick, whose last assignment for the CIA was in Latin America.

Hulnick, part of a CIA entourage visiting the campus at the invitation of the University's Geography and Political Science departments, said that providing policy makers with intelligence based on such estimates is one of the most well-known functions of the CIA. But while the agency monitors indicators such as military installations, shipping and troop movements, "there are no indicators so sophisticated as to tell us what they would like to do." Successful predictions using

indicators, he said, include the Soviet invasions of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and of Afghanistan in 1979. Notable exceptions are the Arab invasion of Israel in 1973 and the fall of the Shah in 1979.

Hulnick also spent time dispelling some myths about his employer. Ninety percent of CIA work is devoted to collection and analysis of information, "an aspect that gets little attention in the media," he said. Asked what the CIA does the other 10 percent of the time, he said five percent is counter intelligence work and five percent is covert actions. These actions, he added, are ordered by high administration officials and are reviewed by House and Senate intelligence committees.

Hulnick, who also served as a liaison between the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and the West German government, was asked by an Italian student about the many Socialists in power in Europe including Italy's Prime Minister Bettino Craxi. He said most of the Socialists are conservative and he sees "no great swing to the Left" in Europe.